CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A retractable leash device, comprising:
a housing;
a reel in said housing;
a leash wound around said reel and extendable from said housing;
a spring biasing said reel to retract said leash; and
a momentary unidirectional lock movable into engagement with said reel to prevent reel rotation in a release direction, but permit reel rotation in a retract direction.

2. The retractable leash device of claim 1, wherein said momentary unidirectional lock is comprised of a ratchet movable into engagement with unidirectional teeth on said reel to prevent reel rotation in a release direction, but permit reel rotation in a retract direction.

3. The retractable leash device of claim 1, wherein said momentary unidirectional lock is comprised of:
a hinged and spring loaded lever with an inner end biased away from said reel, and an outer end projecting from said housing;
a hinged and spring loaded ratchet adjacent an inner end of said lever biased by said lever to a normally disengaged position away from said unidirectional teeth on said reel, wherein when said lever is pressed, said inner end of said lever is moved toward said reel and pivot said ratchet into engagement with said unidirectional teeth on said reel to prevent reel rotation in a release direction, but permit reel rotation in a retract direction.

4. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a toggle lock in said housing movable between an unlocked position disengaged from said reel, and a locked position engaged with said reel to prevent reel rotation in either direction.

5. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a toggle lock in said housing comprised of a sliding bar with an inner end movable between an unlocked position away from cogs on said reel, and a locked position between said cogs on said reel to prevent reel rotation in either direction.

6. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a rotation damper engaged with said reel to limit retraction speed.

7. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a clip on said housing for clipping around said leash.

8. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a clip on said housing comprised of a notch in said housing, and a gate spanning an opening of said notch for clipping around said leash.

9. The retractable leash device of claim 1, further including a leash securing device attached to said housing, wherein when said leash is wrapped around a fixed object and fixedly secured in said leash securing device, a loop of a fixed length is formed in said leash for preventing said leash from wrapping tightly around said fixed object.

10. A retractable leash device, comprising:
a housing;
a retractable leash extending from said housing; and
a clip on said housing for clipping around said leash when said leash is wrapped around a fixed object for tethering said leash to said fixed object.

11. The retractable leash device of claim 10, wherein said clip is comprised of a notch in said housing, and a gate spanning an opening of said notch for clipping around said leash.

12. The retractable leash device of claim 10, further including a rotation damper engaged with a reel in said housing to limit retraction speed, wherein said leash is wrapped around reel during retraction.

13. The retractable leash device of claim 10, further including a leash securing device attached to said housing, wherein when said leash is wrapped around a fixed object and fixedly secured in said leash securing device, a loop of a fixed length is formed in said leash for preventing said leash from wrapping tightly around said fixed object.

14. A retractable leash device, comprising:
a housing;
a reel in said housing;
a leash wound around said reel and extendable from said housing; and
a rotation damper engaged with said reel to limit retraction speed.

15. The retractable leash device of claim 14, wherein said rotation damper is comprised of a geared rotation damper engaged with a gear concentrically positioned around said reel.

16. A retractable leash device, comprising:
a housing;
a reel in said housing;
a leash wound around said reel and extendable from said housing;
a spring biasing said reel to retract said leash;
a momentary unidirectional lock in said housing comprising:
a hinged and spring loaded lever with an inner end biased away from said reel, and an outer end projecting from said housing;
a hinged and spring loaded ratchet adjacent an inner end of said lever biased by said lever to a normally disengaged position away from said reel, wherein

when said lever is pressed, said inner end of said lever is moved toward said reel and pivot said ratchet into engagement with unidirectional teeth on said reel to prevent reel rotation in a release direction, but permit reel rotation in a retract direction;

a toggle lock in said housing comprising a sliding bar with an inner end movable between an unlocked position away from cogs on said reel, and a locked position between said cogs on said reel to prevent reel rotation in either direction;

a geared rotation damper engaged with a concentric gear around said reel to limit retraction speed; and

a clip on said housing for clipping around said leash when said leash is wrapped around a fixed object for tethering said leash to said fixed object.

17. The retractable leash device of claim 16, wherein said clip is comprised of a notch in said housing, and a gate spanning an opening of said notch for clipping around said leash.

18. The retractable leash device of claim 16, further including a leash securing device attached to said housing, wherein when said leash is wrapped around a fixed object and fixedly secured in said leash securing device, a loop of a fixed length is formed in said leash for preventing said leash from wrapping tightly around said fixed object.